UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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FOR NPS USE ONLY												
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TYPE ALL ENTRIES	TO COMPLETE NATION - COMPLETE APPLICATION	<i>NAL REGISTER FORMS</i> BLE SECTIONS	
NAME			
HISTORIC			
ELKHART COUNTY COURT HOUSE			<u></u>
AND/OR COMMON			
LOCATION			
STREET & NUMBER COURT HOUSE SQUARE		NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITÝ, TOWN GOSHEN		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	ng in trope Distributed
STATE INDIANA	CODE 018	COUNTY CODE ELKHART 039	
CLASSIFICATION		e di per judi e teste e diți did e La la disperii serii.	1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 -
CATEGORY OWNERSHIP DISTRICT	STATUS XXOCCUPIED LUNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS ACCESSIBLE YES: RESTRICTED XXYES: UNRESTRICTED NO	ENTERTAINMENTRELIGIO X_GOVERNMENTSCIENT	IM TO THE RESIDENC DUS JEIG PORTATION
OWNER OF PROPERTY			
NAME ELKHART COUNTY, INDIANA			
STREET & NUMBER COUNTY COURT: HOUSE			
CITY, TOWN GOSHEN	VICINITY OF	STATE INDIANA	
LOCATION OF LEGAL DESC	RIPTION	And the second s	
COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. RECORDER'S OFFICE			
STREET & NUMBER COUNTY COURT HOUS	SE		
CITY, TOWN GOSHEN		STATE INDIANA	*15*
GUSTEN			
REPRESENTATION IN EXIST		FY #458)	
TITLE INDIANA HISTORIC SITES & STRUCTURE DATE	RES INVENTORY (SURV		
TITLE INDIANA HISTORIC SITES & STRUCTUR	RES INVENTORY (SURV	EY #458) <u>K</u> STATECOUNTYLOCAL	

CONDITION

XEXCELLENT __GOOD

__FAIR

__DETERIORATED

__RUINS __UNEXPOSED **CHECK ONE**

UNALTERED X_ALTERED

CHECK ONE .

X_ORIGINAL SITE __MOVED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present building is located in "Court House Square," the site of Elkhart County's first Court House, which, "after 35 years of honest wear," was razed in 1868. Positioned in the center of the square, the present structure, surrounded by mature and beautiful maple and elm trees, is the focal point of downtown Goshen, as well as Elkhart County. Also included within the Court House Square block are various "memorabilia," including a fountain depicting a statue of Neptune, donated in 1912; "Old Bullion," an iron cannon donated by the local VFW and fired during the political rallies held on the lawn at the turn of the century; and a monument commemorating those in Elkhart County who died during

The Court House as originally constructed in 1868-1870 was a three story (21/2 story above grade) Italiante style masonry building, asymmetrical in plan, with its lower level partially recessed into the ground and measuring 82' x 72'.

The entire structure was dominated by a lookout/clock tower located at the south end of the building, which also served as the entrance to the lower level. The main entrances to the building were constructed on an E/W axis and were emphasized by exterior "monumental type" stairs and a slightly projecting "classic portico." The portico consisted of four freestanding Corinthian columns set on a rusticated podium, supporting a "well downs proportioned" entablature and measuring 52' from base to cornice. A continuous band of stone rustication surrounded the building from grade to the main entrance level. The exterior corners of the building were emphasized by stone quoins at the main level and stone pilasters at the upper level. The entire structure was crowned by a bracketed cornice and, excepting the clock tower and portico, a shallow hipped roof hidden by

In 1905, as a result of increased space needs, an extensive building program was initiated to renovate and expand the existing facilities. The clock tower, a Goshen landmark for more than a generation, became so "oppressively imposing" that this obtrusive feature was eliminated and a new clay tile dome tower, more moderate in proportion, was added. The new tower, with a clock in each of the four faces, is positioned over the central portion of the building located at the intersection of the N/S & E/W axes. The building has been expanded at both ends along the N/S axis symmetrical in plan, with a total increase in ground space of 87' x 70' or approximately 20,000 square feet. A pipe tunnel, originating at the existing jail (located to the west of the square) and extending to the west end of the building beneath the entrance stairs, was constructed to provide heat for the building.

Additions and alterations over the years include:

- ... Revised heating system
- 1914 ់<u>ខ្លាស់ **ថ្ងៃកី**ការ ប្រក្រុងខ្លួក ខេត្ត</u>មាននេះ នេះក្រោះ ក្រាប់ ការ ខេត្តប្រជាព
- .. Addition of an elevator .. Addition of A/C system
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ila dina kabamatan kecatan.

- .. Small exterior masonry storage addition located north of west

entrance stairs

The Court House as it exists today is in excellent repair and the interior finishes (marble wainscot, the painted plaster, wood trim, etc.) appear to be as was originally constructed in 1906.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	ARE	AS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGIÓN
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799.	ART HE CONTRACTOR	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X_1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
<u>X</u> 1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	LINDUSTRY	X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		LINVENTIÒN CONTRACTOR		engan jaga sagandan di dalah sa
·••		មិនដូច្នេះ។ ចំព្រឹក្សេក ១៩ 😘		
SPECIFIC DAT	1868 - 1870 ES 1905 - 1908	BUILDER/ARCH	Barrows & Garns Patton & Miller	• .

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Elkhart County Commissioners, Jacob Bechtel, J.E. Thompson and Nathaniel Thompson were gifted with the wisdom to recognize the necessity for a new court house to reflect the extraordinary progress made by the people of Elkhart County, and the perseverance to overcome the opposition of the taxpayers. Consequently, in 1868, the Commissioners retained the Chicago architectural firm of Barrows & Garnsey and on June 11 adopted their design. Completed in 1870, at a cost of \$125,000, the Elkhart County Court House is a superb example of a successful transition from "past to present" in terms of the architectural styles of the period.

The original building, as constructed in 1868, was Italiante style in character and demonstrated a fusion of the Italian Ville style and the Renaissance revival. It was described as "imposing in appearance, chaste in design, massive and of great strength and delicacy of finish, with the clock tower adding greatly to the appearance of the building."

However, as the Georgian revival, with its pleasing symmetrical facades, gained momentum, the asymmetrical location of the "elegantly proportioned clock tower" became increasingly obtrusive and grew into disfavor with the public. Thus, in 1905, when the Chicago architectural firm of Patton & Miller was retained for the renovation and expansion of the existing building, the clock tower was removed from the south facade and a new tower positioned on the central axes of the building. Wings, symmetrical in plan, were added to the north and south facades. The renovated building assumed the character of a Georgian Revival style coeval with Second Renaissance style. The fact that these two styles reached their zenith between 1890-1915 (concurrent with the court house renovation) played a major role in effecting a satisfactory solution to the problem of combining two dissimilar styles. The Second Renaissance style gave continuity from original to new design and the Neo-Colonial style, with its symmetry, domed tower, etc., provided a structure with a more aesthetically pleasing architectural massing of elements. The present building is considered to be one of the most attractive county buildings in the State of Indiana.

The County Commissioners also possessed the foresight to recognize the need for preserving a "Green Acre" in the midst of present and future urban monotony and Court House Square serves as an excellent example of sensible urban planning. During the summer the maple and elm trees surrounding the Court House provide much needed shade and also veil the structure while still permitting its prominent tower to serve as a reference point in Elkhart County – it can be seen for miles.

As the seat of Elkhart County government, the Court House (located approximately central to the county) has been the site of numerous and sundry political rallies held on the Court House lawn and has hosted such political luminaries as Ezra Taft Benson, former Secretary of Agriculture (1960); former Senator William Jenner, and the great orator, William Jennings Bryan (1904).

Because of its historical, social and political relevance to the citizens of Elkhart County and the surrounding communities we strongly recommend the nomination of the Elkhart County Court House to the National Register of Historic Places.

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Indiana, E.V. Publishing Hous	se, 1936) PP 186-188	(See continuation sheet)	
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STATE	CODE COUNTY	CODE-	
11 FORM PREPARED BY			
NAME / TITLE	.·•		
JOHN ROBERT PLENNERT, REG	ISTERED ARCHITECT	June 18, 1979	
ORGANIZATION R. M. MCINTURF, STRUCTURA	I ENGINEER	DATE	
STREET & NUMBER	TO PROTUDER	TELEPHONE	
810 CHRISTIAN AVENUE		219/293/1919	
CITY OR TOWN		STATE	:
ELKHART		INDIANA	
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESER			
	IFICANCE OF THIS PROPER	TY WITHIN THE STATE IS:	
NATIONAL	STATE	LOCAL	
As the designated State Historic Preservation O hereby nominate this property for inclusion in to criteria and procedures set forth by the National	the National Register and ce	rtify that it has been evaluated according to	5). 1 the
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATU	To the property said theres	tude grand district	
TITLE	rel case se as .	A. Caronia Da DATE	
OR NPS USE ONLY	<u>an Carada a Angaminy</u> anay	s Green Signature	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY I	S INCLUDED IN THE NATION	NAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND	HISTORIC PRESERVATION	PATE PAGE LEGIT DATE	
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

Deahl, Anthony; A Twentieth Century History and Biographical Record of Elkhart County, Indiana (Chicago, The Lewis Publishing Company, 1905) PP 49-58

Weaver, Abraham E.; A Standard History of Elkhart County, Indiana (Chicago, The American Historical Society, 1916) PP 67-81

Whiffen, Marcus; American Architecture Since 1780 A Guide to the Styles (Cambridge, Massachusetts The Mit Press, 1969)

History of Elkhart County, Indiana (Chicago, Charles C. Chapman & Co. 1881) PP 506-511 Historical Atlas of Elkhart County, Indiana (Higgins, Belden & Co., 1874) Page 9

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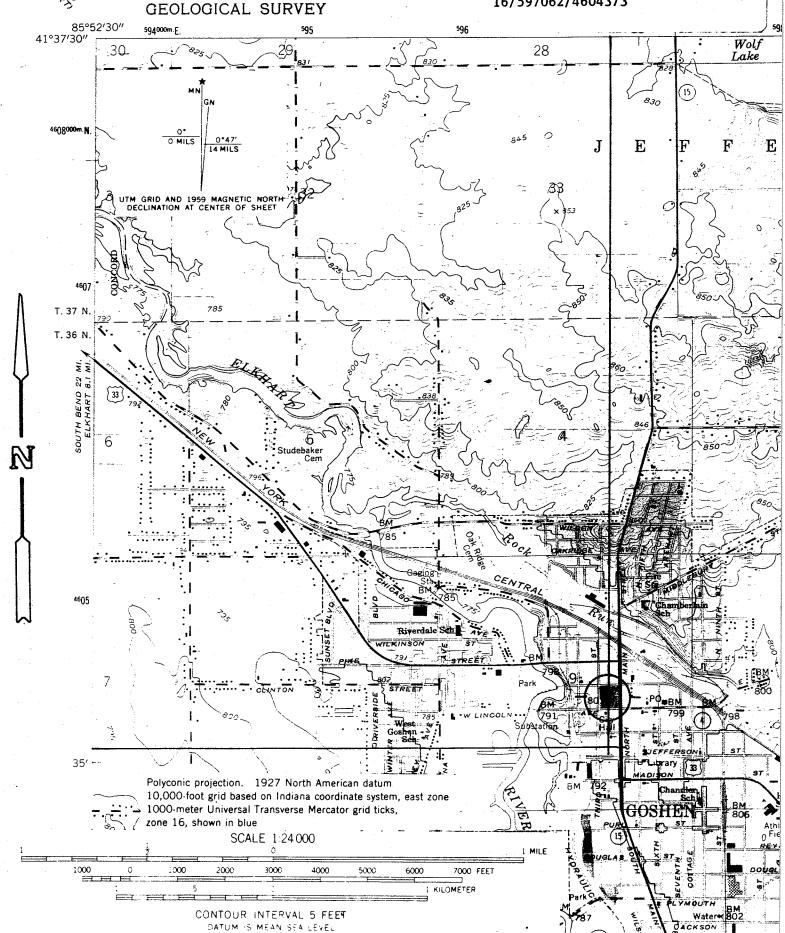
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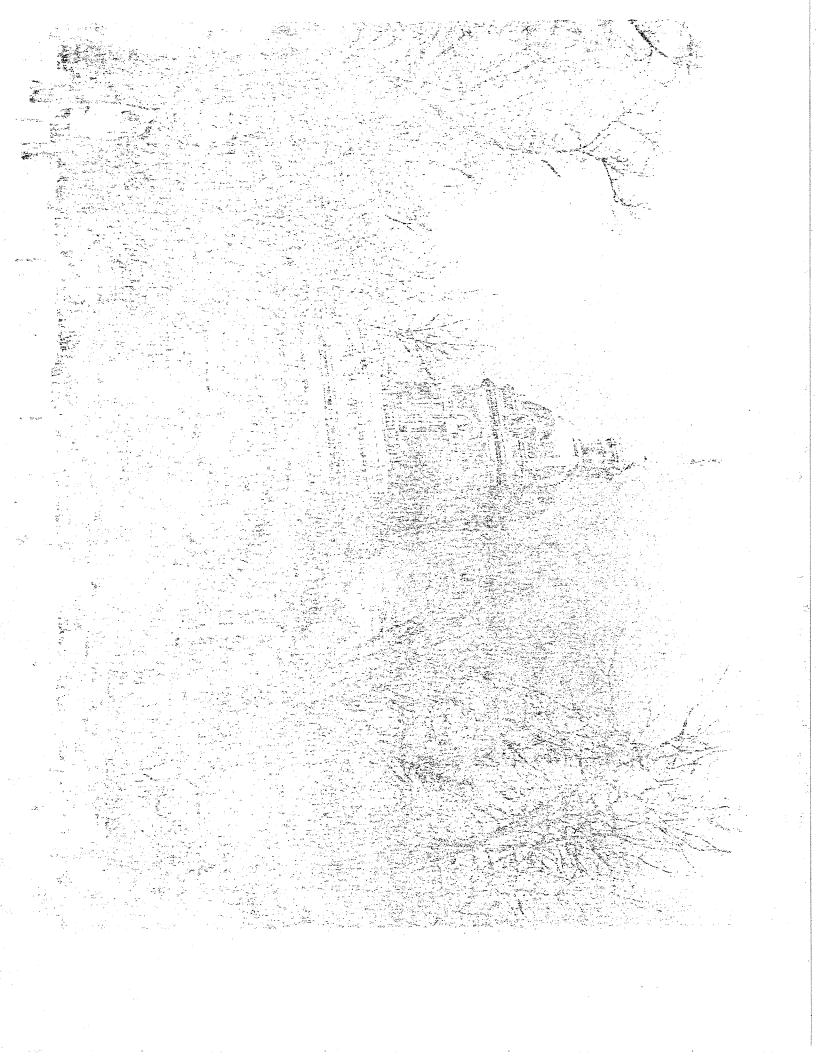
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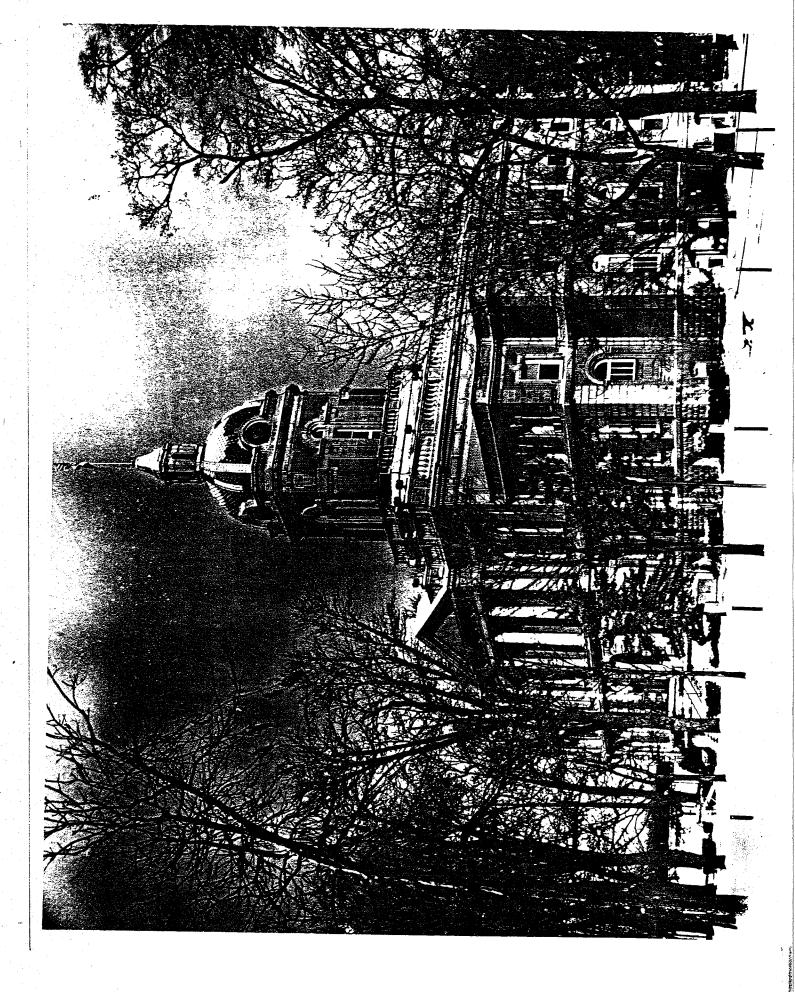
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GOSHEN QUADRANGLE
INDIANA-ELKHART CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Elkhart County Court House Square Goshen, Indiana UTM Reference: 16/597062/4604373







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SEE INSTIBUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Elkhart County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

COUNTY EI Khart

VICINITY OF

STATE Indiana

2 PHOTO REFERENCE

CITY. TOWN GOShen

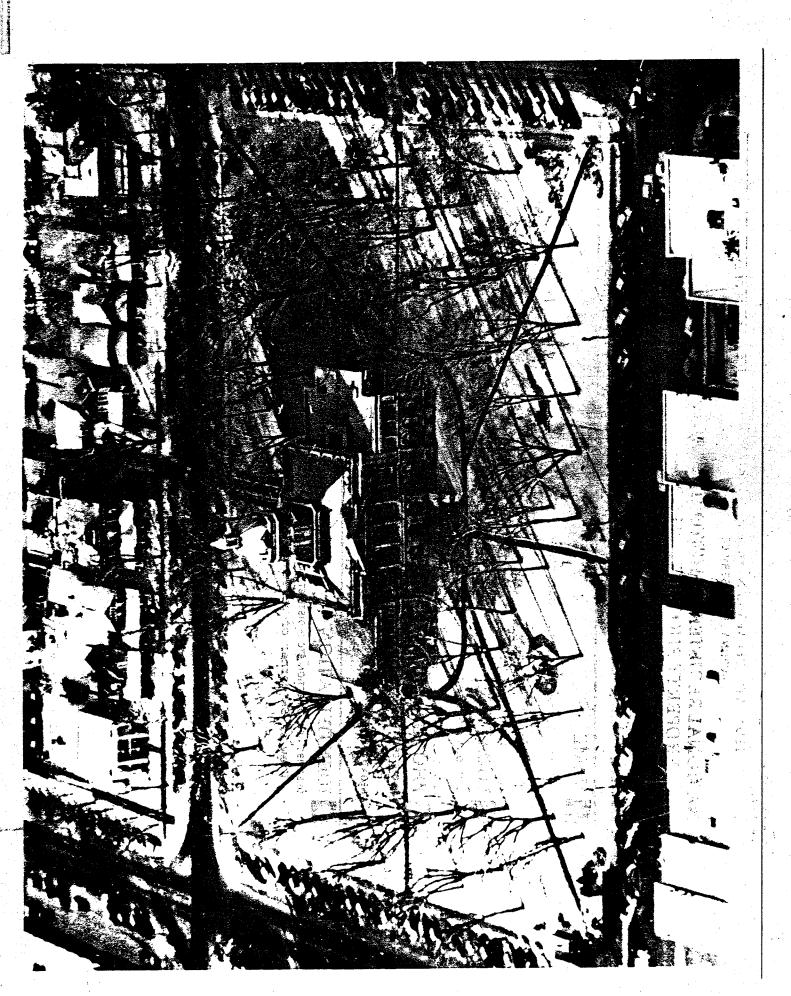
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DATE DF PHOTO 11/30/76

46526 Goshen, Indiana NEGATIVE FILED OF DIKHARE COUNT

IDENTIFICATION *

DESCRIBE VIEW DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT SIVE BUILDING NAMES STREET VIEW OF SW COTHER OF PRESENT DULL CLING.



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TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

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Eliter County Courthouse was

COUNTY Elkhart

STATE Indiana

PHETENERRENCE

Char Fred Photober

DATE OF PHOTO 12/20/76

46526 Elihart County Highway Dept.; 600 B. Jackson St., Goshen, Indiana

A IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Copy of photo found in Gashen Public Library (Original circa 1955) serial view of Courthouse Square looking westerly.

PHOTO NO.